



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
SEOUL BUREAU



MSK-6015
3 September 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Seoul Bureau -- August 1986

I. GENERAL

1. After months of political and civil crises throughout the Korean peninsula, August seemed calm, with only a major Cabinet reshuffle, a long press conference by President Chun, and continuing negotiations between ROK ruling and opposition parties on constitutional revision attracting close domestic attention. And these events were largely overshadowed by last-minute preparations for the Asian Games which begin in Seoul on 28 September, and by Typhoon Vera which paid a brief but chaotic visit to the Republic during the last week of the month.

2. With the opening of the Asian Games less than three weeks away, the country is gearing up for thousands of visitors. Athletes from about 38 countries are expected to participate, and the PRC alone is sending a contingent of nearly 700, in charter flights of the Chinese airline CAAC. The games are also scheduled to be televised live in the PRC. The PRC's large-scale participation seems to have irritated the DPRK, which is not participating and has urged other countries to boycott as well because of the "political" nature of the Games. Hotel space in Seoul will be nonexistent from now until at least the middle of October. Security measures have been increased, and critics of the Games claim that security forces will outnumber spectators at some events.

3. Seoul suffered relatively little damage from Typhoon Vera, but the southern area of the country was much less fortunate. Continuous winds of over 100 mph were recorded for nearly 12 hours on 28 September on the island of Cheju-do, off the south coast. There was considerable damage to crops, particularly rice which is nearing harvest. An offshore oil-drilling platform being constructed for Norway by a Korean firm, with 225 aboard, broke its moorings and drifted ashore along the southeast coast. The platform suffered some flooding, the deck listed, and for several hours the rig was in danger of breaking apart and sinking. Eventually many of those aboard were rescued by helicopter, and there was no loss of life. The Bureau closed early on the evening of the 28th, in anticipation of heavy wind in Seoul. The worst of the storm bypassed Seoul, however, and Bureau operations returned to normal on the 29th.

4. Bureau employees, their families, and invited guests celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Bureau's founding at a picnic on the 31st. Hamburgers were consumed, volleyball was played, and the Bureau Chief gave a very short speech before Senior Editor [] performed a ceremonial cutting of the anniversary cake. The first piece was presented to Associate Editor [] the Bureau's first local employee. The founding Bureau Chief, [] was in Seoul earlier in the week, but was unable to stay for the anniversary celebration. In his honor, a small party was held at the Bureau on the 29th, during which he was the first recipient of a 10th anniversary Bureau coffee cup, made especially for the occasion.

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*Dangerous. I have one of these
from [] last anniversary!*

II. OPERATIONS

Editorial/Monitorial

1. Bureau wordage during August was the lowest since mid-1985, and provided a welcome respite from months of near-record output. The Korean Unit in particular enjoyed the slower pace, though reduced wordage did not mean Bureau operations were completely uneventful. A strange sequence of reports on Pyongyang radio of firing incidents in the DMZ served to keep Bureau editors alert and attracted the attention of Korea watchers. It has been several years since reports of firing along the DMZ have been monitored. The first incident, on 5 August, received full follow-up treatment by Pyongyang after the initial report, but the subsequent three did not, and apparently were contrived by the DPRK for unknown reasons. Pyongyang radio reports of the real or imagined incidents, monitored late in the evening, provided good experience for monitors and editors, since on two of the occasions the evening shift editor was called back to the Bureau to file the reports and follow-up messages.

2. In South Korea the month saw long-awaited leadership reshuffles of first the ruling DJP and then of the ROK cabinet. The changes seem to have strengthened the hand of the DJP Chairman, No Tae-u. Most local observers believe that No will be the DJP presidential candidate in the 1988 elections, and the maneuvering in August seems to have solidified his position as heir-apparent to President Chon.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. The Bureau's campaign to recruit Japanese monitors for Okinawa Bureau continued throughout August. Five "finalists" emerged from tests and interviews, and Okinawa Bureau Chief [] came to Seoul on the 27th to conduct final interviews. [] hopes to hire two of the applicants, and if Headquarters concurs firm offers will be made within the next few days.

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2. Senior Editor [] and family were in Hawaii on R&R from 2-28 August.

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Seoul Bureau Production Report for August 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	536620
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	157810
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1358

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	13265.00 min.	5510.00 min.	100.46 issues

 III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
 (publishable words per month)

CHINA			
Beijing International service in Korean to Korea	1650		
Beijing City Service in Mandarin	350		
Changchun Jilin Provincial Service in Mandarin	10220		
Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in Mandarin	8430		
Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in Mandarin	6800		
Jinan Shandong Provincial Service in Mandarin	12370		
Shenyang Liaoning Provincial Service in Mandarin	3600		
Shijiazhuang Hebei Provincial Service in Mandarin	2420		
Tianjin City Service in Mandarin	0		
Beijing BEIJING RIBAO in Chinese			7700
Changchun JILIN RIBAO in Chinese			800
Harbin HEILONGJIANG RIBAO in Chinese			1320
Jinan DAZHONG RIBAO in Chinese			3550
Shenyang DONGBEI JINGJI BAO in Chinese			450
Shenyang LIAONING RIBAO in Chinese			9750
Shijiazhuang HEBEI RIBAO in Chinese			12500

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Tianjin TIANJIN RIBAO in Chinese			2800
CLANDESTINE (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea	23170		
KOREA (NORTH) Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean	173170		
Pyongyang Television Service in Korean	0		
Pyongyang KCNA in English		133720	
Pyongyang Editorial Report on DPRK korean			0
Pyongyang KULLOJA in Korean			5000
Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean			2700
KOREA (SOUTH) Seoul Domestic Service in Korean	8770		
Seoul YONHAP in English		31750	
Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean			0
Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean			1100
Seoul Editorial Report on ROK Media korean			1600
Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean			800
Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean			450
Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean			0
Seoul SINTONG-A in Korean			0
Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English			26470
Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English			33810
Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean			1500
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS Moscow International Service in Korean	7900		